

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

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ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS

BISMARCK AND THE WAR

Many commentators have said that had Bismarck lived he would not have allowed Germany to plunge into war. The keenest of all commentators looked ahead, they pointed out, and followed a line that would not cause any great portion of the world to be hostile to the fatherland.

What are the facts? When Bismarck succeeded in plunging France and Germany into war as the result of his changing the famous Ems telegram, he took particular pains to have the good will of the rest of Europe. He had placed the burden on France for the war and eliminated all sympathy for Napoleon II.

After the war Germany imposed an indemnity of one billion francs on France, the largest ever known in the world's history. The French people, with their customary thrift, soon freed the country of German soldiers by paying the price. Bismarck is said to have regretted that the tax was not greater, because he had underestimated France's ability to pay the indemnity, and because he wanted to keep that country weak and in deadly fear of Germany. The latter he succeeded in doing.

Under Bismarck's long chancellorship Germany was not a colonizer. He did not believe in colonial empire, but he thought it would be to Germany's advantage to encourage France in this direction and thereby cause her to clash with England, the only first-class colonizer since the days of Spain's greatness. Bismarck succeeded in this policy, and students will recall that British and French advance guards almost clashed in Egypt. War seemed inevitable.

England and France reached an agreement. They decided that there was enough land for both and they divided Africa as well as they could. The result was that war was avoided and France was more powerful. Then Germany decided she wanted some colonies, but all the territory was taken. Germany had delayed too long. Still Emperor William contrived to extend his possessions, and when the war began the German flag was waving in Africa and Asia. France and England simply had interests in common and France was ready to do almost anything out of fear of her powerful Teutonic enemy. This accounts for her alliance with Russia, by which the French government lent the Muscovites millions of dollars and aided in the reorganization of the Russian army, and later reached an agreement with England. The triple entente was born of France's fear of Germany.

Had Bismarck been more human, had he not insisted on a huge war indemnity, not taken Alsace and Lorraine—though 300 years earlier they were German provinces—and had not France been in mortal dread of the German hosts, this war would not be in progress. Bismarck might have prevented this war, but the rulers that followed him after his dismissal lacked his cunning.

A writer in the Saturday Evening Post points out that the civil war was not responsible for the decline of the American merchant marine, as so many of us believed, but that it was the failure of Yankee shipowners to realize the advantages of steel and steam over wood and wind. Once we led the world, but England, by means of subsidies, has taken first place, and other nations, by subsidies also, have continued to increase their tonnage, so that when the war began the United States was carrying nine per cent of its products in American bottoms.

Representative Kitchin, from all accounts, made an unusual speech in the house the other day in reply to criticisms of the administration's emergency tax. While the Record would not insist that the country could escape the economic effects of a change in the tariff, those who insist that the war had nothing to do with the depression in the United States are unfair to the public. A great upheaval is bound to be disastrous to the world.

Public officials in Raleigh or Washington or in any capital for that matter have more strings tugging at them than the public ever will be aware of. It seems to be a fact that this and that interest—not necessarily adverse to good government—is always present. The politicians must always be on their guard.

A BRITISH DENIAL

Several weeks ago the Record noted the complaint from American sources that Great Britain was crippling American commerce with neutral countries so that British merchants could reap a greater profit, it even being charged that London and Liverpool firms were shipping stuff to Germany. Such conduct, if it existed, deserves the condemnation not only of allied governments, but the neutral world as well, for it would show a state of depravity seldom ever approached in any nation's history—and we are quite aware that some mighty low characters are produced in war times.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador to Washington, in a memorandum to Secretary Lansing made public today, denies these charges and goes on to say: "As these statements seem to be largely based upon a report emanating from an officer of your department who had not had access to the official statistics of the United States government, I think it may be useful, in the interest of a fair and just appreciation of the facts (which I am sure is your object) if I enclose a memorandum on the subject of these assertions which is supplementary to that already communicated to you by my government.

"It is not to be expected that the United States should be wholly untouched by such a world calamity as the present war, and in the case of the American Civil war it will be in your recollection that the immediate effect on France and England was an unparalleled industrial crisis which resulted in untold suffering to the working classes of those countries, hundreds of thousands being rendered absolutely destitute. It is satisfactory to note from the recent published report of the secretary of the treasury, that wholly apart from war orders, the industrial situation in this country is on a firm, steady and healthy basis."

The ambassador points out that British trade does not compete with American trade in the neutral countries of Europe, as the products of America, sent to those countries, are wholly of a different nature from those exported from Great Britain. He explains that in some cases there has been an increase in trade between Britain and neutral countries, but asserts that it has been infinitesimal as compared with the volume of American trade.

The Record does not think the United States has much to complain about. If Germany and Austria will discontinue the policy of sinking defenseless passenger ships, the United States might well stand off and let the belligerents fight it out—as it can accomplish little good for a long time—and recognize that this country could be much worse off if the contending nations were desirous of laying up trouble for us. They could make conditions in this country similar to those in Lancaster, Eng., where thousands of mill people suffered for lack of employment during the war between the states. It could be a great deal worse.

The Record never has been wild about preparedness, but it has recognized the need for the addition of several units to the navy. Battle cruisers, judging by results in the present war, are mighty useful adjuncts, but the United States does not possess a single vessel of this type, and its submarines evidently are more dangerous for their crews than they would be for anybody else.

"When it will be to the permanent interest of the Philippine islands" to become independent is susceptible of any interpretation you might want to place on the clause. For our part, we want to be done with the islands as soon as possible.

Every county should have compulsory attendance and then every county should provide first class school facilities. A state or nation will never develop as it should until the whole populace is required to go to school.

There is more money in building a dreadnought than in any other kind of war vessel, and this probably accounts for the fact that the United States has more of this class than any other kind.

Samuel G. Blythe declares that 90 per cent of the American people are for preparedness. That is a large percentage, but if the people were not for it, we know where a lot of congressmen would stand.

Wealthy men like the Snipes father and sons have no more claim to mercy than the poor fellow who can't pay, and we are glad Judge Boyd refused to "let them off light," as was suggested he might do.

Now if this war would end, the whole world could enter a period of construction and reconstruction that would benefit mankind for centuries.

If you take us very seriously, we might say that we were one of those fellows who thought the war would be over in six months.

In other words Austria is willing to engage in a talkfest two or three years longer.

The Durham Herald printed pictures of President Wilson and his bride showing them serious.

Hoke Smith is our beauideal of a braying politician.

Congratulations to the happy presidential pair.

Disarm the Police

Columbia State.
The State quotes the following paragraph from a letter of Mr. E. W. Dabbs that it printed yesterday: "The remarks of Dr. John E. White in presenting William Jennings Bryan to the audience at Anderson college last week as reported by the Daily Mail—in reading it I am forcibly reminded of your many editorials that have shown the logical sequence of preparedness in 'toting' a pistol followed by the sickening harvest of homicides in this state. I doubt very much if a month has passed in the 24 years that the State has been published that you have not proved that readiness increases homicides. And what is true of individuals is true of nations."

In the 24 years that the State has been printed it has never advised that sheriffs, constables and policemen should depend upon their teeth and their fists to enforce the law against "toters" of concealed pistols. The inevitable conclusion from Mr. Dabbs that "what is true of individuals is true of nations," and therefore the nations should have armed police forces, consisting of armies and navies, to enforce the laws of nations against the nationally lawless. It is quite true that a nation may over-arm itself so that its military establishment loses its character as a protector of the peace and becomes a professional bully hunting trouble. The only question before the people of the United States is how large the national police force ought to be and how far its strength may be increased without converting the nation into a challenger for the international fighting championship, title and belt.

As to this there may be honest difference of opinion but if the conclusion follows from the observations of Mr. Dabbs that our fighting strength should not be augmented, another conclusion is equally inferable from his premises—that our existing army and militia forces should be disbanded, our forts, dismantled and our navy scuttled.

EXERCISES SUNDAY NIGHT

The Christmas exercises of the Methodist Sunday school will be held in the church Sunday night at seven o'clock.

CAROLINA & NORTH-WESTERN

Time Card No. 32, Effective Nov. 20, 1915.

	Northbound	No. 10 Daily	No. 8 Pass Ex Sun
Chester	Lv	7:43am	12:05pm
York	Lv	8:29am	2:20pm
Gastonia	Lv	9:24am	5:40pm
Lincolnton	Lv	10:20am	6:31pm
Newton	Lv	10:55am	7:08pm
Hickory	Lv	11:40am	7:40pm
Lenoir	Lv	12:15pm	8:35am
Mortimer	Lv	12:28pm	
Edgemont	Ar	3:40pm	

	Southbound	No. 9 Daily	No. 7 Pass Ex Sun
Edgemont	Lv	11:55am	
Mortimer	Lv	11:13am	
Lenoir	Lv	1:00pm	6:30am
Hickory	Lv	2:35p	7:25am
Newton	Lv	3:08pm	7:55am
Lincolnton	Lv	3:43pm	8:29am
Gastonia	Lv		
Gastonia	Lv	5:00pm	10:00am
York	Lv	5:45pm	12:00am
Chester	Ar	6:35pm	1:15am

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in
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"Neal of the Navy."

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Philadelphia Public Ledger.
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"Thank you, ma'am. My young man is very steady, considering his environment."
"What does he do?" Mary.
"He's a valet to a young millionaire, ma'am."

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